

ATLAS OF MEDICAL ANATOMY. By J. Langman and M. W. Woerdeman.
(Pp. 523, 491 illustrations, 455 in colour. £17.50). Philadelphia, London,
Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1978.

THIS exciting atlas is designed to be studied and read as the medical student dissects the cadaver. Everything that he should see and know about is illustrated, and the extensive notes on each page provide a running commentary on the functional and clinical significance of the structures and relationships portrayed. The illustrations themselves are the work of a team of talented medical artists under the direction of Mrs. Blumenthal-Rothschild, and they rank as works of art: nevertheless, I would buy the book for its notes and diagrams rather than its drawings, because the latter are sometimes too 'artistic', obscuring the basic anatomical arrangements, or else there are too many details for the enlightenment of the medical student, who is apt to be overwhelmed by the sheer complexity of it all. I particularly liked the surface anatomy, the x-ray plates, the embryological correlations and the references to the anatomy of the child. There would appear to be few errors, although the position given for the diaphragmatic orifice of the interior vena cava in the diagram on page 68 is clearly erroneous. This kind of textbook has the merit of emphasizing that Human Anatomy is a medical discipline, with the inference that it should be taught for its clinical significance by clinically-orientated teachers. The price is very reasonable for a book of this quality. Wise students will buy it for themselves: impecunious ones will consult it in their libraries: good teachers will update their lecture notes from it.

J.J.P.

A NEW APPROACH TO MEDICINE, PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH CARE. By John Fry. (Pp. viii+154: £6.95) Lancaster, England. M.T.P. Press Ltd., 1978.

THE author is a prolific writer about all aspects of primary medical care, service and educational. His precise style and succinct choice of words make the book very readable, apart from its worthwhile analysis of the priorities of health care. Primary medical care is depicted as a special field and the key to the whole medical care system. His own data have been presented before in different guises, yet he blends them skilfully with those from other studies. His world wide collection of numerical facts relates to work-load in hospitals and general practice, differences of content, referrals and use of hospitals, self treated conditions, prescribing habits of general practitioners, community social services, primary health team workers and other available resources. He deals with the common dilemmas of health care with precision and commonsense based on long experience of general practice. He raises serious questions about prevention, cost-effectiveness of health care systems, and the expansion in Britain since 1949 of diagnostic departments in hospitals. The isolation of teaching hospitals from primary care services is fully discussed as are the implications for medical education. He calls for a re-appraisal of the application of scientific principles to medical care, and advocates the education of the general public in the use of services. In conclusion the author outlines the questions to be answered by centralised planners to achieve the best deployment of resources.

This book is essential reading for all interested in the problems of health care on a world basis and in finding solutions to medical and health personnel manpower problems, which cross all national boundaries.

W.G.I.